

BRISLINGTON.

Medical and nursing museum.

My Car Club's visit Thursday 20th August, 2026.

Meeting time was 10.30 at the museum itself with all those in attendance on time for their eagerly anticipated guided tour.....and indeed no one was disappointed!



This oldest residence in inner Parramatta was built in 1821 for an ex-convict **John Hodges**. A condition of his application to Governor Macquarie for a liquor licence was '**if he built a good solid house, he could have his licence**'. He built the house using his winnings from a card game at the local hotel! A diamond pattern was built into one side of the house, the 8 of diamonds, signifying his winning card!



Various owners acquired the property until 1857 when Dr. Walter Brown took up residence there. He named the house **Brislington** after his hometown in Bristol, England, thus commencing 95 years and 3 generations of medical practice there!



Brislington became part of Parramatta District Hospital in 1949 and was used as a Nurse's home for many years, being of special help during the Granville rail disaster of 1977, the worst rail disaster in Australian history...many people survived as a result of Brislington aid.

In 1983, the Board of Directors of the Parramatta Hospitals established an Archives Committee to be guardians of Brislington's history and it was chosen as a suitable venue to house a medical and nursing display! Our Club was shown through the premises by 2 of the knowledgeable volunteer graduate nurses of Brislington itself!



Old time dummy for learning nursing skills. Operating table from the olden days!



Wheel chair.



Trolley.

The museum contained many interesting artefacts from bygone days, some of which are still in use today....lots of history here indeed! BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE GALLERY!

With the museum being virtually in the centre of Parramatta parking was naturally at a premium but we were allowed to park at the huge Club Parramatta for free provided our members bought a beverage or a meal and had their receipts stamped.... and to my knowledge no parking was paid for!



Hungry and thirsty members alleviating pangs!

A large selection of culinary delights, from bistro fare to restaurant food, was on hand and judging by the varied dishes etc that were purchased and the noise of our members, all had no complaints and were extremely satisfied!

No motor memories today as all attending vehicles were scattered around the Parramatta environs!

Once again another well attended, informative and enjoyable outing.

Thanks to our intrepid leader Mark and all our contributors.

ED.